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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Draft DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom **(first reading)** - Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act

1. On 23 December 2020, the Commission sent its proposal[1], based on Article 43(2)TFEU, to the Council.

2. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on 27 January 2021[2].

3. The European Parliament will adopt its position at first reading on the Commission proposal at its plenary on 8-11 March 2021.

[1] 5004/21.
[2] Not yet published in the OJ.

4. Due to the special circumstances, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision (EU) 2021/26[3], that the Council uses the written procedure for the adoption of the draft Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom, as set out in document PE-CONS 4/21[4].

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[3] Council Decision (EU) 2021/26 of 12 January 2021 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, and extended by Decisions (EU) 2020/556, (EU) 2020/702, (EU) 2020/970, (EU) 2020/1253 and (EU) 2020/1659, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 11, 14.1.2021, p. 19–20).

[4] PE-CONS 4/21 will be available in due time.